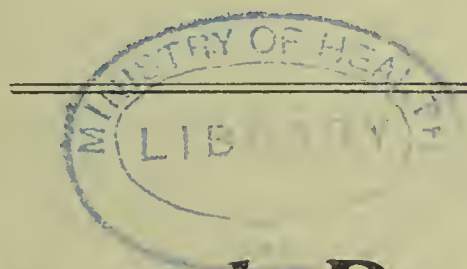


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**COCKERMOUTH
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,
Charles A. Mason, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

FOR THE YEAR 1953

Together with the Summary of Work
of the Sanitary Inspectors

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Cockermouth Rural District Council.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Cockermouth Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1953, which has been drawn up in the usual manner and in accordance with instructions of the Ministry of Health.

It is my final Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the Cockermouth Rural District, my first having been presented for the year 1920.

In all sincerity I would like to express my appreciation of the courtesy, friendliness and encouragement shown to me throughout my term of office by Councillors and Staff alike.

I am glad to think that, at any rate, some of the many achievements in the work of the Council during this long period have been, in however small a way, connected with my department and it is with such consolation I go into retirement.

My thanks are again due to those Observers of Rainfall in the district, shown in the table on page 5, for supplying their records.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES A. MASON,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres), 161,312 (inclusive of area covered by water).

Registrar General's estimate of resident population (mid 1953)
(see page 6) (19,350).

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1953) according to
Rate Book 5,893.

Rateable Value at 31st December, 1953 ~~£97.16s. 3d.~~
£97.163

Product of a Penny Rate £348 4s 10d.
(1st April 1953—31st March 1954)

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total	M	F	
Live Births	{ Legitimate	281	149	132	Birth Rate (R.G.) (unadjusted) 14.7
	{ Illegitimate	4	2	2	
Still Births		8	4	4	(incl. 0 illeg.)
		Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 27.30.			

	Total	M	F	
Deaths	232	121	111	Crude Death Rate
(R.G.)	11.9 per 1,000 of estimated resident population.			

Maternal Mortality :—

Deaths from puerperal causes (childbirth) :—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births.
Puerperal Sepsis	0	Nil.
Other Maternal Causes	0	Nil.
Total	0	Nil.

Infantile Mortality :—

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	8
All Infants per 1,000 live births (approximately)	28
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births (approximately)	28
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births	Nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea (all ages)	4
Deaths from Cancer	27

Table showing rainfall in inches, in 1953, compiled from observers in various parts of the district.

Observation Station	Dean School	At Crosthwaite Keswick, about 440 yards from the Cockermouth Rural District boundary	Dale Head Hall, Thirlmere	Blackwood, Braithwaite,	Cockermouth, within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of Rural District boundary
Observer	A. Casson, Esq.	T. Wilson, Esq.	Alan Atkinson Esq., Engineer to Manchester Corporation Water Works	C. Barnes Esq.	M. M. Dixon Esq. Surveyor
Diameter of Rain Gauge Funnel	5 inches	5 in.	5 in.	8 in.	5 in.
Height of gauge above ground	11 in.	1 ft.	1 ft.	1 ft.	1 ft.
Height of gauge above sea level	366 ft.	254 ft.	620 ft.	400 ft.	330 ft.
1953.	ins.	ins.	ins.	ins.	ins.
January	5.52	2.32	4.19	3.47	2.04
February	1.14	1.96	3.69	2.48	1.51
March	2.68	.79	1.28	1.12	0.54
April	3.31	3.82	6.67	5.07	3.10
May	2.53	2.49	4.64	2.63	2.02
June	3.27	1.67	3.83	1.87	1.53
July	4.93	6.49	9.89	7.79	7.25
August	5.29	5.93	9.01	6.88	4.32
September	2.81	8.95	13.07	11.09	5.99
October	5.33	3.35	5.91	3.53	2.26
November	2.13	10.05	15.09	11.90	7.60
December	5.03	3.62	5.84	4.04	2.69
Totals	43.97	51.44	83.11	61.87	40.25
Average prev. 5 yrs 1948-52 (incl)	46.17	63.16 (Av. 51 yrs 57.30)	97.48 (Av. 75 yrs 82.01)	73.06	

Cockermouth Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, For the year 1953.

The area of the district in statute acres is 161,312 (approximately 4,700 of which are covered by inland water).

Fourteen parishes (Above Derwent, Bassenthwaite, Bewaldeth, etc., Blinderake, including Isel Old Park and Sunderland, Blindbothel, including Mosser and Whinfell, Borrowdale, Buttermere including Brackenthwaite, Embleton, Lorton, Loweswater and Mockerkin, St. John's in the Vale and Castlerigg, Setmurthy, Underskiddaw, including Skiddaw, and Wythop) of the Cockermouth Rural District were included in the Lake District National Park which was designated as such by the Parks Commissioners 30th January, 1951, and confirmed by the Minister concerned 9th May, 1951.

POPULATION.

The population figure of 19,350 is given for the year 1953 by the Registrar General and called by him the "Home population" (i.e. including members of the armed forces stationed in the area); on this figure the birth and death rates and the incidence of notifiable diseases are based.

N.B.—The population figure for 1952 was 19,590.
(calculated on the same basis as above).

Vital Statistics.

BIRTHS.

Live Births.—The total number of live births registered in and belonging to the district in 1953 was 285 (151 males and 134 females). Of these 4 (2 males and 2 females) were illegitimate. The net live birth rate is, accordingly 14.7 per 1,000 of the population, the same as for the previous year.

In regard to Births and Deaths the Registrar General has supplied Area Comparability Factors, which allow for the differing age and sex distribution of the population in different areas and are used for comparing birth rates and death rates with those in other areas. The factor for births is 1.08, adjusting the birth rate, therefore, to 15.8.

Birth Rate comparisons may be given as follows :—

		Adjusted
1953—Cumberland	16.7	
Rural Districts of Cumberland	16.2	
Urban Districts of Cumberland	17.5	
England and Wales	15.5	
Cockermouth Rural District	14.7	15.8

The percentage of illegitimate live births was approximately 1.4 as compared with 4.1 in 1952.

Still Births—8 still births (none being illegitimate) were also registered, giving a still birth rate of 0.41 per 1,000 of the population, being 0.15 for 1952. (The rate for all England and Wales was 0.35).

The still birth rate per 1,000 total live and still births was 27.30 as compared with 10.38 for 1952 (England and Wales 22.4).

DEATHS.

The number of deaths (civilian and non-civilian), registered as belonging to the district was 232 (121 males and 111 females) i.e., after correcting for non-residents dying within the district and for those persons whose usual residence was within the district dying outside the district. This gives a crude death rate of 11.9 per 1,000 of the population compared with 12.3 for the previous year.

The comparability factor for adjusting the crude death rate (for the reasons explained above under 'Births') is 0.96. The adjusted death rate for Cockermouth Rural District was, therefore 11.4.

Comparisons of crude death rates are shown below :—

	Crude	Adjusted
Death Rates, 1953—Cumberland	11.9	
Rural Districts of Cumberland	11.9	
Urban Districts of Cumberland	11.8	
England and Wales	11.4	
Cockermouth Rural District	11.9	11.4

(For causes of death during the year see table on page 8)

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

There were 8 deaths of Infants under one year of age—giving an Infantile Mortality Rate of, approximately, 28 per 1,000 births as compared with 56 for the preceding year.

Comparisons may be given as follows :—

Infantile Mortality Rates, 1953—

Cumberland	...	...	27
Rural Districts of Cumberland	...	...	24
Urban Districts of Cumberland	...	...	30
England and Wales	...	...	26.8
Cockermouth Rural District	...	...	28

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1953.

Causes of Death.		Males	Females
All Causes		121	111
1	Tuberculosis, Respiratory ..	3	3
2	.. Other ..	0	0
3	Syphilitic disease ..	0	0
4	Diphtheria ..	0	0
5	Whooping Cough ..	0	0
6	Meningo-Coccal infections ..	0	0
7	Acute Poliomyelitis ..	0	0
8	Measles ..	0	0
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	0	2
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach ..	2	2
11	.. .. lung. ..	4	1
12	.. .. breast ..	0	3
13	.. .. Uterus ..	0	1
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ..	10	4
15	Leukæmia, aleukæmia ..	0	0
16	Diabetes ..	0	1
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	19	23
18	Coronary disease, angina ..	16	9
19	Hypertension with heart disease ..	4	2
20	Other heart disease ..	24	27
21	Other circulatory disease ..	3	6
22	Influenza ..	0	3
23	Pneumonia ..	2	4
24	Bronchitis ..	3	3
25	Other diseases of respiratory system ..	1	0
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	6	2
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..	1	3
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis ..	0	1
29	Hyperplasia of prostate ..	3	0
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ..	0	0
31	Congenital malformations ..	1	1
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	11	9
33	Motor vehicle accidents ..	0	0
34	All other accidents ..	6	1
35	Suicide ..	2	0
36	Homicide and operations of war ..	0	0
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age—Total ..		5	3
.. Legitimate ..		5	3
.. Illegitimate ..		0	0
		M	F
LIVE BIRTHS	Total ..	151	134
	Legitimate ..	149	132
	Illegitimate ..	2	2
STILL BIRTHS	Total ..	4	4
	Legitimate ..	4	4
	Illegitimate ..	0	0

POPULATION (for Births and Deaths), 1953. R.G.—(see p. 6) 19,350

INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR, 1953.

Net Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages
under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total Deaths under One Year
Prematurity	1				1					1
Inhalation pneumonia	1	1			2					2
Broncho-pneumonia							1			1
Neo-natal asphyxia	1				1					1
Post-operation shock; Meconium ileus	1				1					1
Gastro-enteritis						1				1
Congenital malformation (Spina-Bifida)				1	1					1
All Causes (certified)	4	1		1	6	1	1			8 _{RG}

All the deaths in the first column occurred within twenty-four hours, or thereabouts, after birth.

No death occurred among illegitimate infants so that the Illegitimate Infantile Mortality Rate was nil per 1,000 illegitimate births, as compared with 8 deaths among legitimate infants giving a Legitimate Infantile Mortality Rate of approximately 28 per 1,000 legitimate births. These rates were respectively 168 and 51 for the previous year.

(For Infant Mortality Table see page 9).

SENILE DEATH RATE.

153 persons (85 males and 73 females) had attained the age of 65 or upwards. This number represents a Senile death rate of 68.1 per cent of the total deaths as compared with 162 senile deaths with a percentage of 67.7 for 1952.

27	(16m 11f)	persons died between the ages of	65 and 70 years
31	(17m 17f)	"	70 and 75
35	(23m 12f)	"	75 and 80
39	(20m 19f)	"	80 and 85
16	(8m 8f)	"	85 and 90
5	(1m 4f)	"	90 and 95
2 (f)		at 97 and 99 years, respectively.	

INQUESTS, UNCERTIFIED DEATHS AND VIOLENCE.

In respect of deaths belonging to the district during the year, there were 9 inquests (4 of which were held outside the district).

Six Coroner's Certificates were received of cases where post mortem examinations had been made but no inquest held.

19 post mortem examinations were known to have been carried out (these include inquest cases).

Three deaths were uncertified (1952—8).

Violence.—The death rate from Violence (all forms) was 0.465 per 1000 of the population in the Coker mouth Rural District. Below will be seen the number of deaths from Suicide, Road Traffic Accidents, Other Violence and the Total Violence deaths, together with the percentages of the total deaths from all causes, and the death rates of each 1,000 of the population in comparison with 1952 :—

	Suicide		Road Traffic Accidents		Other Violence excl'g Road Traffic Acc.		Total Violence	
	1953	1952	1953	1952	1953	1952	1953	1952
Deaths	2	2	0	4	7	3	9	9
% of all causes	.86	.83	0	1.67	3.01	.41	3.87	3.765
D R. pr 1000 population	.103	.103	0	.206	.361	.051	.465	.464

Deaths from Violence in 1953 include :—1 from fractured skull and multiple injuries from accidental fall while rock-climbing; 1 from fractured ribs due to being crushed between railway wagon buffers (acc.); 1 from chest compression due to being struck by plank at a saw mill (acc.); 1 from drowning (acc.); 1 from Salicylic Acid Poisoning (Aspirin tablets)—suicide; 1 from coal gas poisoning—suicide; 2 from C.O. poisoning (Lime Kiln gas)—acc.; and 1 due to fall at home (with diabetic complication).

CANCER.

Cancer proved fatal in 27 cases, as follows :—

System	Primary Organ	Males.	Females.
Alimentary	Oesophagus ..	1	
	Stomach ..	2	2
	Bowel ..	3	3
	Rectum ..	1	
Respiratory	Larynx ..	1	
	Lung ..	3	
	Bronchus ..	1	1
Glandular	Breast ..		2
	Pancreas ..	1	
	Prostate ..	1	
Reproductive	Uterus ..		1
Excretory	Bladder ...		1
Integumentary	Lip ...	1	
Osseous	Ethmoid ..	1	
Other	Liver (primary unknown) ..		1

			yrs. of age
1	of the deaths (f)	occurred among persons between	30 and 40
2	„	(1m 1f)	„ „ 40 and 50
1	„	(m)	„ „ 50 and 60
7	„	(4m 3f)	„ „ 60 and 70
10	„	(7m 3f)	„ „ 70 and 80
6	„	(3m 3f)	„ „ 80 and 90

The 27 deaths correspond to a death rate of 1.39 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 31 deaths and a death rate of 1.59 in 1952. Approximately out of every 9 deaths of persons in this district one was due to cancer (1952—1 in 8; 1951—1 in 8; 1950—12).

TUBERCULOSIS.

Vide also page 33.

There were 6 deaths due to Tuberculosis :—

	Males	Females	Total
Respiratory System	3	3	6
Other Forms	0	0	0
All cases	3	3	6

All of the deaths were of previously notified cases, including four in this district.

The total gives a tuberculosis (all forms) death rate of .31 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with .15 for 1952.

The death rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis was .31 per 1,000 of the population as compared with .10 the previous year.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

1. Part-time Medical Officer of Health.
2. Two full-time Sanitary Inspectors :—
 - (i.) Senior S.I.—Mr. George Nelson, who holds the Sanitary Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, and also awards and a special Certificate of the London City Guilds for Sanitation and Plumbing.
 - (ii.) Additional S.I.—Mr. Reginald Mather, who holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and the Sanitary Inspector's Examination Board.
3. Mr. Denys Hinde, clerk and assistant.

The work of the Council's Engineering Staff (Sanitary and Water) under Mr A. E. Simpson, A.M.I.C.E., is to some extent connected with this department.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council is the Authority responsible for this important public service (taking over in 1948). Under their comprehensive Ambulance Scheme for Cumberland the provision made for this district has remained adequate.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

WATER SUPPLY.

Generally speaking, with few exceptions, this district is well covered with public and private water mains.

The population supplied from public mains direct to houses is estimated as 17,044 and houses supplied, approximately, 5,216. See table below.

There are no properties in this district which are supplied by standpipes provided by the local authority (Section 128, P.H.A., 1936).

The estimated number of dwelling houses and population supplied from public water mains direct to houses for each Parish is shown in the following table.

Parish	Houses	Population	Parish	Houses	Population
Above Derwent	327	890	Crosscanonby	258	877
Allerby and Oughterside	175	635	Dearham	567	2024
Bassenthwaite	82	250	Dean	220	737
Bewaldeth	6	19	Embleton	66	258
Blinderake	94	269	Gilcrux	101	374
Bothel	91	353	Greysouthen	141	460
Bridekirk	122	700	Lorton	66	178
Broughton	483	1320	Loweswater	8	25
Broughton Moor	226	880	Papcastle	78	250
Blindbothel	12	30	Plumbland	156	565
Borrowdale	66	220	Seaton	864	2361
Brigham	239	860	St. Johns in the Vale	1	4
Buttermere	—	—	Setmurthy	29	113
Cameron	60	225	Underskiddaw	40	113
Clifton, Great	420	1340	Winscales	67	186
Clifton Little	140	475	Wythop	11	48
			Totals	5216	17044

Four samples of water from the Crummock Supply were taken for analysis by Workington Corporation and the results given as follows :—

1. (27-3-53) Tap at Oxford Hotel, Workington.
'Bacteriologically and chemically a satisfactory water.'
2. (14-7-53) Tap at 18, Ashfield Lane, Workington.
'Bacteriologically and chemically a satisfactory water.'
3. (21-9-53) Direct from Crummock Lake.
'Bacteriologically an unsatisfactory water; it is however chemically satisfactory.'
4. (26-10-53) Tap at Hall Park View, Workington.
'Bacteriologically highly satisfactory.'

Renewal of water mains during the year :

150 yards of 1" and $\frac{3}{4}$ " galvanised pipes to Broughton Grange houses.

645 yards of 3" Everite pipe laid at Grange in Borrowdale to replace an old steel main.

Extensions of water mains :

170 yards of 2" Everite pipe to N.E.H.A. site at Seaton.

133 yards of 3" Everite pipe to N.E.H.A. site at Broughton.

302 yards of 2" Everite pipe to N.E.H.A. site at Clifton Lodge.

149 yards of 3" Everite pipe to N.E.H.A. site at Clifton Lodge.

Improvement works :

The floor and sides of the Hause Ghyll stream have been concreted between the intake and the dam.

Scraping :

The 15" to 13" trunk main which supplies 8 parishes of the Rural District has been scraped by the Workington Corporation between Crummock Lake and the Stainburn Reservoir, a distance of 14 miles.

660 yards of 3" main supplying farms between Broughton and Broughton Moor have been scraped by this Council.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No new schemes or extensions were carried out during the year.

Thornthwaite and Branthwaite :

I make no apology for stressing again the need for public sewers and outfall works for these two areas, details of which were included in my last annual report.

Apart from the right of the residents to have the benefit of hygienic modern sanitation, there are serious and objectionable nuisances which can only be removed by the provision of public sewers. Conditions exist which are a real danger to public health especially in the case of Thornthwaite.

Permission from the Ministry has now (1954) been obtained to proceed with Branthwaite sewerage, but in the case of Thornthwaite I trust the Council will again press the Ministry for permission to proceed with the work without any further delay.

SANITARY ARRANGEMENTS.

Where public sewers have been provided the drainage of 14 houses and buildings have been connected, and 6 closets were converted to the water carriage system.

Court Case :

In connection with sewerage, one of the few outstanding cases in respect of the provision of modern drainage and sanitary arrangements was that of five cottages at Dearham. All persuasive measures having failed statutory notices were served on the owner to abate the nuisances by the provision of proper sanitary drains and gully traps and a water closet for each house. As the notices were not complied with the case was brought before the Court and eventually (19th March 1954) the Court made an order requiring the owner to comply with the Notices, the work to be completed by the 31st May 1954. On behalf of the Council Mr. Nelson had prepared all details of the case and along with the Clerk attended the Court to give evidence.

REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

The Total cost of the refuse removal services for the year was £4,370 18s 4d and covered approximately 5,410 houses. This gives a figure of approximately 16/2 per house per annum or 3½d per week.

Separate costs per parish are no longer kept, but the table below gives the number of houses per parish covered by the refuse collection service.

The following Parishes or Parts are covered by the Council's vehicle with direct labour :—Dean (including Ullock, Branthwaite, Pardshaw, Deanscales and Eaglesfield), Bridekirk (including Dovenby and Tallantire), Papcastle, Seaton, Broughton Moor, Buttermere, Loweswater (including Mockerkirk), Blindboethel (including Rogerscale and Mosser), Bassenthwaite (including Chapel Area and Castle Inn), Sunderland and Isel, Greysouthen, Lorton, and part of Winscales.

The remaining parts of the district where collection is made are covered by contractors :

1953 Parish	Approx. No. of houses.
Allerby and Oughterside	176
Above Derwent	362
Blindbothel	22
Borrowdale	135
Bassenthwaite	114
Bridekirk	115
Brigham (and Broughton Cross)	239
Broughton	427
Broughton Moor	200
Blinderake	60
Bothel and Threapland	89
Buttermere	47
Crosscanonby	258
Camerton	60
Dearham	567
Dean	221
Embleton	47
Gilerux	82
Greysouthen	138
Clifton, Great	418
Clifton (Little) and Bridgefoot	139
Lorton	79
Loweswater	48
Papcastle	78
Plumbland	140
St. Johns-in-the-Vale	111
Seaton	858
Setmurthy	21
Underskiddaw	101
Winscales (Furnace Row)	42
Wythop	16
	<hr/>
	5,410

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

The inclusive summary of work done by the Sanitary Inspectors, in accordance with Article 19 of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926, will be found at the end of this report (commencing on page 35).

Duties additional to the normal routine continued to be undertaken as a result of Post-War conditions.

I would again record my grateful recognition of the willing co-operation of the Council's staff as a whole—and especially that of the two Sanitary Inspectors, Mr. G. Nelson and Mr. R. Mather. I am, also, again, particularly indebted to Mr. Nelson, Chief Sanitary Inspector, for his truly invaluable assistance in the compilation of my annual report.

At the time of writing, Mr. Nelson has already entered the ranks of the retired and I cordially hope he has a long and happy retirement. Our collegueship has always been on a high level and will be a lasting memory to me.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

There are 120 shops on the register and 154 inspections were made.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

The following table shows the position in this district at the end of 1953 :

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written notices	Defects found	Defects remedied
(i) Factories in which Sects. 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	27	58	4	4	4
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by Local Authority	45	33	3	3	3
(iii) Other premises in which Sect. 7 is enforced by Local Authorities (excluding out-workers' premises)	1	2	0	0	0
TOTALS	73	93	7	7	7

(Section 1 refers to cleanliness, 2 to overcrowding, 3 to temperature, 4 to ventilation, 6 to drainage of floors, 7 to sanitary conveniences)

HOLIDAY CAMPING.

17 Camping licences were issued (or renewed), 11 for camping sites and 6 for individual caravans.

Experience shows that the provisions in the Public Health Act, 1936, have remained inadequate for the satisfactory administration of this branch of public health duties. The repeal of the adopted powers held by this Council prior to the passing of the Public Health Act, 1936, has continued to be a distinct disadvantage.

Housing.

PLANS PASSED :—

- (a) New Dwelling-houses 87 (including 35 North Eastern Housing Association).
- (b) Enlargement or renovation of dwelling-houses 35.
- (c) Other buildings 71.

19 Private houses and 70 N.E.H.A. houses were completed during the year.

Difficulties in getting repairs carried out have continued throughout the year, these being chiefly due to high costs of building labour and materials. These difficulties are, of course, general throughout the country and many owners find it financially impossible to carry out costly repairs in face of restricted rents.

A new Act intended to accelerate repairs and arrest further decay of existing houses is expected and it remains to be seen how far this may be successful in effectively dealing with the long standing problem of extensive and expensive repair work.

8 licences were issued for repairs and necessary improvements where the cost exceeded £500 per house.

The Council has continued to make progress in the erection of new houses as far as circumstances would permit and during the year 70 more new houses were completed on behalf of the Council by the North Eastern Housing Association and 19 by private persons, making a total for the year of 89, and a grand total of post-war houses up to the end of 1953 of 810 (678 by the Council and 132 by private persons)—all of traditional type.

For information I reprint here a report on housing prepared by Mr. Nelson, the Chief Sanitary and Housing Inspector in November, 1953. The figures have been amended to 31st December 1953. Included is a programme for 1954, and notes on slum clearance, repairs and improvements and the Housing Repair Bill.

1. "As requested I submit for your information and consideration a statement on the housing work of the Council, together with some suggestions for further activities in this important part of the Council's duties.
2. The tables show you the position on the 31st December, 1953.
3. The total number of new houses built in the district since the war is 810 (Council 678, Private 132), and the average per year is 101 (Council 85, Private 16).
4. It is significant that out of the total population of your District 19,390) approximately one eighth have been re-housed in new houses since the war, also of the 678 houses completed by the Council, 312 or 46% have been let to ex-servicemen.
5. May I say the House Letting Committee and officials have from the first had a most difficult task in the duty of selecting tenants which is always open to criticism. Many claims and priorities have had to be considered and the great variety of these, including special illnesses, has necessitated much thought and investigation. This is a very important branch of housing work calling for sympathy, careful investigation and vigilance.

6. Tables 1 and 2 set out the total numbers of houses built both pre and post-war which may be regarded as public or municipal in character and the tables show the location of the houses.
7. The 192 flat-roofed houses built during the war (included in table 2) were at the request of the war-time Government for a special purpose and when, immediately after the war, I attended, on behalf of the Council, a conference at the Ministry, a very satisfactory financial arrangement was concluded.

TABLE 1.

Houses Built and owned by the Council :

Pre-war :		
Seaton (Lowea Lane)	12	
Seaton (Derwent Avenue)	28	
Great Clifton (Gatehead)	36	
Great Clifton (The Gavels)	12	
Belle Vue	8	
Prospect	12	
Broughton (Coldghyll Av.)	12	
Braithwaite	4	
Total		124
Post-war :		
Seaton (Leslie's Estate)	34	
Total		34
Total Houses built and owned by the Council		<hr/> 158 <hr/>

TABLE II.

Houses Built and owned by the N.E.H.A. :

Pre-war and wartime :		
Dearham (Croft Crescent)	40	
Braithwaite	6	
Crosby (agricultural)	2	
Seaton (Barncroft Avenue)	70	
Broughton (Grange Avenue)	20	
Great Clifton (The Gavels)	36	
Great Clifton (Bowflatts)	70	
Broughton Moor (Lueock Av.)	32	
Plumbland (agricultural)	2	
Pardshaw (agricultural)	2	
Total		280

Post-war :

Crosby (Suncroft)	30
Dearham	84
Seaton (Hunters Drive Area)	166
Bothel	12
Bassenthwaite	14
Brigham	52
Broughton (Ghyllbank)	96
Little Clifton	32
Oughterside	4
Applethwaite	4
Crosscanonby	2
Camerton	6
Bridekirk	2
Great Clifton (Stoneycroft)	44
Broughton Moor (Moorfields)	32
Deanscales	6
Plumbland (The Muslins)	20
Blindcrake	4
Allerby	2
Gilcrux	2
Greysouthern	12
Rosthwaite	12
Winscales	2
Lorton	4
Total	644

Total houses built and owned by N.E.H.A.	924
--	-----

BY COUNCIL	158
BY N. E. H. A.	924
MUNICIPAL HOUSES	1082

TABLE III.

Total Number of Houses Built Privately Post-war : 132.

TABLE IV.

Houses Built in each Post-war year :

Year	Private	Municipal
1946	17	30
1947	24	108
1948	16	154
1949	11	88
1950	5	110
1951	20	54
1952	20	64
1953	19	70
Totals	132	678
Averages ('46—'53)	16	85
Inclusive average 101 per year.		

TABLE V.

Houses in Course of Erection :

N. E. H. A.

Little Clifton	2
Seaton	21
Braithwaite	14
Great Clifton (Clifton Lodge)	45
Total	82

Private

In course of erection	18
Licensed but not actually started	8
Total	26

 108

TABLE VI.

Tenants Re-housed in Post-war Houses :

Miners	212
Agricultural workers	80
School teachers	10
District Nurses	3
Aged persons (in bungalows)	24
Others	349

FUTURE BUILDING.

8. With the removal of the development charge and other restrictions, greater activity in private building may confidently be anticipated.

Acquiring suitable sites by private individuals often presents difficulty and local authorities have been advised by the Ministry to assist where they can by setting off portions of their sites, with services, for sale for private development, thus relieving the local rates and the national exchequer of the heavy subsidies. As previously reported, it is open to the Council to consider such possible schemes where there is any demand or difficulty in securing suitable sites for private building.

9. The Housing Committee have already had before them a Circular from the Ministry (717/1 of 20-10-53) pointing out that on present figures (see table V) it is likely the Council will commence 1954 with approximately 80 houses in course of erection in addition to private houses.

The Ministry consider another 60 houses (making 140 for the Council in 1954) is as many as building resources in the district could reasonably undertake and they suggest that figure be submitted for approval for 1954. No doubt the Ministry will be willing to approve more if later it is found possible for the building industry to undertake greater numbers.

10. It is therefore necessary to take 60 as the additional figure for 1954 and in order to give a picture of the present need, the following table shows the waiting lists in the several parts of the district.

As you know, a number of applicants have already refused tenancies on the ground of high rents, while in some parts there are applicants who have little or no claim on this Council. As far as possible, such cases are reflected in the following table.

TABLE VII.

An Analysis of the Waiting Lists.

Village	Total applicants	Applicants with no Claim on the Area	Not prepared to pay high rent	Balance to re-house. (Including doubtfuls).
1	2	3	4	5
Braithwaite	29	2	12	15
Bassenthwaite	7	—	3	4
Blinderake	1	—	—	1
Bothel	6	4	—	2
Bridekirk (including Dovenby & Tallantire)	4	—	—	4
Broughton	32	11	11	10
Broughton Moor	29	2	4	23
Brigham	18	3	5	10
Camerton	1	—	—	1
Crosby	26	6	2	18
Dearham	36	1	5	30
Greysouthen	10	—	—	10
Great Clifton	110	12	20	78
Little Clifton	8	—	—	8
Lorton	7	4	—	3
Oughterside	23	4	7	12
Papeastle	10	1	5	4
Plumbland	10	5	1	4
Rosthwaite	4	1	2	1
Seaton	111	31	13	67
Totals	482	87	90	305

NOTE : Col. 3 includes applicants who neither reside in nor belong to the Rural District nor are employed therein.

Col. 4 are those applicants who are not prepared to accept new houses but wish to remain on the list for lower rent houses.

Col. 5 include a number who came into the district on marriage but otherwise have no local claim.

11. As will be seen from Table VII the greatest need is in the following villages : Braithwaite, Oughterside, Broughton Moor, Great Clifton, Crosby, Dearham and Seaton, with a net total of 245. Our allocation for 1954 is 60.

12. Braithwaite is already provided for by the 14 houses in course of erection. Great Clifton is only partially provided for by 45 houses in course of erection at Clifton Lodge. Dearham and Seaton lack sufficient water supply for present needs and it would be unwise to proceed further with house building until the water supply situation is improved.

This reduces the figure from 245 to 86 (Oughterside 12, Great Clifton 33, Crosby 18, Broughton Moor 23).

13. From the above figures the following would appear a reasonable additional programme for 1954 with certain site clearances and preliminary arrangements for further development later :—

GREAT CLIFTON	18
(on the site for 68 adjoining Bow Flatts which is cleared and purchased, in addition to the special allocation of 50 for miners)	
OUGHTEBSIDE	12
CROSBY	14
(including a house for the District Nurse)	
BROUGHTON MOOR	16
Total	<hr/> 60 <hr/>

14. In the cases of Crosby and Broughton Moor, site clearance and purchase could be carried through for larger numbers which could be proceeded with in 1955 (or earlier if possible), and should there be any unforeseen delay in arrangements for any one of the above, the figures could be adjusted.

15. On Table VII there are several cases of small numbers of applicants. Some of these have some degree of urgency and merit sympathetic consideration. I refer to such as Grey-southern, Bridekirk and Papcastle. Building in small numbers is very expensive and reflects heavily on the rents.

However, I would suggest that efforts be made to secure suitable and inexpensive sites where possible in these cases in order that the needs may be met as soon as circumstances permit.

16. From the foregoing information I hope it will be possible to arrive at a satisfactory and practicable programme for 1954 with some forward arrangements for further development which in some cases may be embodied in one contract, and thus reduce costs, as could be done at Crosby or Broughton Moor.

17. Comprehensive layout plans have been prepared for Seaton, Broughton and Great Clifton, while tentative layout plans have been prepared for Broughton Moor and Crosby.

18. At Dearham, where clearing and improvement of properties is urgently necessary, immediate further house building is held up on account of the present water supply being inadequate. I have, however, drawn up a tentative layout which would fit in with the existing new houses and other properties.

19. Should you desire to consider this plan for Dearham at the present stage it is available for inspection. The plan is an endeavour to make provision for the present and future needs of the village including Council and private building and a possible site for a modern village hall.

20. If the plan is approved in principle, then as soon as an adequate water supply is assured, the way will be open to vigorously tackle the housing problem in that village. Houses could be built in stages as circumstances permit and would in the end form a compact and economic unit

SLUM CLEARANCE, REPAIRS and IMPROVEMENTS.

21. It seems fitting here to make reference to the recent White Paper issued by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and to the proposed new Housing Bill. As will have been observed in the press it is the Government's intention to make a drive towards slum clearance, the repair and improvement of existing dwellings and to amend the Rent Restriction Act. In this work the Local Authorities are to be called upon to undertake the duty of the detailed local administration.

22. For some time, large numbers of houses have been deteriorating through lack of effective repairs, the cost of which in many cases is out of all proportion to rents.

While it is true the 1949 Housing Act provides for Improvement Grants, no grant is available for repairs, even though a new roof may be required. Improvement Grants only cover some new amenity or addition which the house did not possess before, and while all necessary repairs have to be carried out in conjunction with the improvement, no allowance can be made nor can the rent be adjusted to provide for any return on capital expenditure for repair work, however extensive.

The Council has been generous with improvement grants (which are optional) under the Housing Act, 1949. Up to the present, applications have been received in connection with 27 houses, and with the approval of the Ministry, substantial grants have been allowed in each case.

23. Of approximately 5,900 houses in this Rural District the net rent (that is exclusive of rates) of a considerable number is not more than 6/- per week, and in many cases even less. With the costs of building labour, materials and haulage more than three times the pre-war figure, the difficulty in getting repairs carried out, and the depreciation of the older dwellings will be understood, but it would surely be unwise National policy to allow conditions to drift from bad to worse.

Whatever difference of opinion may exist as to the best way of dealing with this problem it will be the duty of local authorities to operate such machinery as Parliament may provide.

24. The task which will be set by the new proposals will not be light. They will put additional duties on public health departments which are concerned with housing problems, from preliminary inspections, repairs and improvements, slum clearance, re-development, right through to selection of tenants and re-housing.

25. I have consulted the Medical Officer of Health on the contents of this report and as in all efforts towards advancement in Public Health and Housing Work I have his corroboration.

Also I wish to acknowledge the help of my colleagues in the Public Health Department in connection with the factual data and tables.

I hope this report will be acceptable and helpful in the furtherance of housing work in your district."

HOUSING ACT, 1949.

During 1953 approval was given in 8 cases where plans had been submitted and applications made for Improvement Grants under the above Act.

The full position is as follows :

Applications for grants approved to date.	Works completed and grants paid to date	Applications approved in 1953	Works completed and grants paid in 1953
21	15	8	5

Two cases of improvement deserving special mention are Furnace Row, Winscales, and Church Street, Brigham.

FURNACE ROW :

Consisting of 22 small bungalow type houses previously owned by the United Steel Co. The sanitary arrangements were out of date and unsatisfactory. The Council purchased the property and an extensive improvement scheme is in progress including the conversion of the 22 bungalows into 11 and the provision of a modern drainage system and modern sanitation including domestic hot water systems and bathrooms.

CHURCH STREET, BRIGHAM :

The conditions which prevailed in this case were for many years a cause of anxiety. Through the efforts of this department the new owners (the National Coal Board) agreed to carry out a scheme of improvement to the plan of Mr. Nelson. The scheme includes the conversion of 11 houses into 6 with internal re-arrangements, the provision of bathrooms, domestic hot water systems and internal modern sanitation, also additional light and ventilation.

In both the above cases Improvement Grants under the Housing Act, 1949 have been agreed to. The work is in progress and when completed these houses should serve a useful purpose for many years to come as well as clearing up two long standing problems.

Housing Appendix.

STATISTICS.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) 276
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 436
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925 and 1932 (Brought up to date) 0
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 0
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 16
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 260

2 Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 71

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 0

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners 0

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners 0

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 10

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners 9

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners 0

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 5

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 8

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 3

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit 0

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948—SECTION 47.

Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention on the certificate of the Medical Officer of Health.

Under the above Act provision is made for removal to suitable premises for care and attention of any persons who :—

- (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions, and
- (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

During the year no cases were required to be removed.

THE PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT.

Systematic inspections have been made and appropriate action taken in connection with the above and in order to comply with requirements it has been necessary to have assistance of some of the Council's workmen in connection with sewer baiting.

Claims have been submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for re-imbursement in connection with cost of rat-poisons and workmen's time and travelling. For the financial year ending 31st March, 1953, 50% of the cost (£8 5s 4d) was refunded by the Ministry.

Co-operation of the County Pests Officers continued to be very helpful throughout the year.

Food.

MILK SUPPLY.

Under the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944, new regulations came into force on the 1st October, 1949, when the duties and powers relating to the production of milk on the farms were transferred from County and Local Sanitary Authorities to the Ministry of Agriculture. This transfer also meant the end of the joint sampling scheme (for the detection of T.B. and the estimation of cleanliness) between the Cumberland County Council and the Local Authorities in the County which had served a very useful purpose covering many years.

It was later found, however, that no arrangements had been made for sampling milk (for the detection of T.B.) from ungraded herds where milk was retailed in the County. The County Council were seriously concerned in this matter and being responsible under the Food and Drugs Act for the sampling for T.B., they called a conference of all local authorities within the County to consider what could be done as a measure of protection of the public against possible milk-borne infection by Tubercle Bacilli.

This resulted in a scheme of co-operation in the sampling of ungraded milk retailed to the public within the County, the appropriate Officers of the Local Authorities taking the samples and submitting them to the Cumberland Laboratory and the County Council paying the costs. This scheme was put into operation as from 1st May, 1950, and during the year 1953, 183 samples were taken by your Public Health Department, all of which proved negative for T.B.

Although under the new regulations the production side of this work (dairy farms) was transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture the portions dealing with retail distribution and dairies (not farms) are still the responsibility of the local sanitary authorities, as is also all drainage.

Local Authorities must keep a register of retailers and their dairy premises. There are 110 registered retailers in this district of which 98 are producer retailers and 12 retailers only.

I am indebted to Mr J. K. S. Elmslie, the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture for the following return of figures relating to the eradication of tuberculous bovines:—

Particulars of Animals slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order of 1938, from premises registered in the Cockermouth Rural District, during the year, 1953.		
Total number of Animals Slaughtered	...	1
Cows in Milk	..	0
Other Cows or Heifers	..	1
Other Bovine Animals	..	0
Types of Disease found on post-mortem.		
Tuberculosis of Udder	..	0
Tuberculosis with Emaciation	..	0
Tuberculosis with Chronic Cough and/or showing definite Clinical signs	..	1

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Since January, 1940, all slaughtering in private slaughter houses was suspended by the Ministry of Food as a war-time measure and all slaughtering has been (and is being) carried on in regional slaughter houses.

Private slaughter-houses in the district have therefore only been used as meat stores and for making-up purposes, the butchers receiving their supplies of meat from Maryport Abattoir.

By arrangement with the Maryport Urban District Council assistance continues to be rendered, when required, in the work of meat inspection at the Maryport Abattoir by the appropriate officials of this (C.R.D.) Council.

In addition, 96 inspections have been made of meat stores in the district.

A list of articles of food condemned will be seen in the Sanitary's Inspector's Report on Page 30.

BAKEHOUSES:—

There are 5 registered bakehouses in the district. 62 inspections were made during the year but no serious defects found.

ICE CREAM:—

Registered premises for manufacture or sale	28
Inspections made	57

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Diseases.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases. — The total number of Infectious Diseases notified during 1953 in the Cockermouth Rural District, including Pulmonary and other forms of Tuberculosis, was 360. Excluding Measles and Whooping Cough (vide post) the number was 59. (The figure for 1952 was 57).

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1953.

Diseases	Total cases notified in C.R.D.	Cases notified 1953 admitted to hospital.	Deaths of 1951 notified cases.
Small-pox	.. 0	0	0
Diphtheria	.. 0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	.. 14	8	0
Enteric Fever (including nil Para-typhoid)	.. 0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	.. 1	1	0
Pneumonia (all forms)	.. 10	0	0
Erysipelas	.. 3	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	.. 0	0	0
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	.. 2	2	0
Meningo-coccal	.. 1	1	0
Pneumo-coccal	.. 1	1	0
Ac. Poliomyelitis	.. 1 (abortive)	1	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	.. 0	0	0
Measles	.. 274	0	0
Whooping Cough	.. 27	0	0
Dysentery (Sonne)	.. 0	0	0
Food Poisoning	... 5	0	0
Tuberculosis:—			
Pulmonary	Males 5 Females 15	4 (San. or Hosp) 5	0 0
Non-Pulmonary	Males 1 Females 2	0 1	0 0

Table showing monthly incidence of notifiable diseases, 1953 :—

Disease	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	J'ly	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec.	Total
Scarlet Fever	2	1	1		9	1							14
Pneumonia (all forms)	3	3	1		1			1		1			10
Erysipelas								1		2			3
Measles	9	7	9	12	32	47	44	34	9	3	16	52	274
Whoop. Cough		1	1	2	3		1	3		1	7	8	27
Ac. Poliomyelitis									1				1
Meningitis:—													
Meningo-Coccal				1									1
Pneumo-Coccal									1				1
Puerperal Pyrexia								1					1
Food Poisoning						1		4					5
Tuberculosis :													
Pulmonary	1	2	2	2	2	1	3		1	2	2	2	20
Other Forms			1					1				1	3

From notifications received it is deduced that 1 in every 328 persons in this district contracted a disease notifiable under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act (Chickenpox, Measles and Whooping Cough excluded) and Tuberculosis Regulations. (In 1952 the figures were 1 in 340).

(Vide Post re Measles and Whooping Cough).

Diphtheria.—There were no notifications so that the ease rate was nil per 1,000 of the population, the same as for 1952. The corresponding ease rate for all England and Wales was .01.

There has been no death from Diphtheria since 1944 (and that it may be remembered, was of a boy who had not been immunised). The death rate (1953) for England and Wales was 0.00.

The immunisation campaign against Diphtheria was continued as before (entailing, as usual, a lot of unseen work). Most of the actual inoculations were again given by me at the local public elementary schools and at Coekermouth School Clinic; co-operation of local Medical Practitioners, Head Teachers, the various District Nurses, and in particular, the County Health Visitor, Miss Horn, is hereby, again, gratefully acknowledged.

According to figures kindly supplied by the Divisional Medical Officer, Dr. J. L. Hunter, during the year under review 110 public elementary school children from 5 to 14 years of age, and 215 infants under 5 years old were given primary injections (two at intervals of a few weeks).

Included in the above number of primary injections are 34 given by general medical practitioners.

A decrease is shown in both groups, though in the infant group it is only slight. It is essential, if Diphtheria is not to re-appear, to have a high level of immunisation among children generally and particularly in the under 5 years group.

The following Table shows the number of notified cases of and deaths from Diphtheria since 1920 :—

Year	Cases Notified	Deaths	Year	Cases Notified	Deaths
1920	46	8	1939	2	0
1921	28	4	1940	3	0
1922	14	1	1941	D.I. com'd. in R.D.	1
1923	31	2			
1924	21	0	1942	2	0
1925	7	1	1943	3	0
1926	45	2	1944	7	1
1927	23	0	1945	7	0
1928	2	0	1946	3	0
1929	2	0	1947	2	0
1930	20	1	1948	0	0
1931	7	1	1949	0	0
1932	6	0	1950	0	0
1933	4	1	1951	not confirmed	0
1934	3	0			
1935	26	4	1952	0	0
1936	0	0	1953	0	0
1937	12	1			

287 children received a single re-inforcing dose (these are children who received the two primary doses 4 to 5 years previously).

Regarding Scarlet Fever there were 14 cases, and chiefly mild in type (1952—30). Vide distribution table, page 34. Eight were removed to Hospital. No death occurred so that the death rate per 1,000 of the population from Scarlet Fever was therefore, nil.

The case rate of Scarlet Fever per 1,000 of the population was accordingly .72 as compared with 1.54 for 1952. (The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 1.39, and death rate .00).

There being no notification of Typhoid or Para-Typhoid Fevers their case rates and death rates were respectively nil per 1,000 of the population. (For England and Wales in 1953 the Typhoid and Para-Typhoid case rates were respectively .00 and .01, and the death rate, collectively, of these two fevers was 0.00).

Ten cases of Pneumonia were notified, and all ten recovered. There were six registered deaths from this disease (all forms).

One case of Acute Poliomyelitis (abortive) was notified in September in Seaton—that of a child of 8 years. Hospital treatment was received.

Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis, Encephalitis Lethargica, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, and Dysentery (Sonne)—No notifications.

One notification of Puerperal Pyrexia was received (this term includes Puerperal Fever).

The case rate for Puerperal Pyrexia is better expressed in relation to the number of births registered rather than to the population. When calculated on this basis the rate was 3.4 per 1,000 total births (i.e. live and still births) as compared with two notifications and a rate of 6.9 last year. The corresponding rate for all England and Wales (1953) was 18.23.

No maternal death was recorded, so that the Maternal Mortality (all causes) rate was therefore nil per 1,000 total (live and still) births, as compared with one death and a rate of 3.4 for 1952, (1951, 1950, 1949 and 1948—nil).

Tuberculosis.—Under the Tuberculosis Regulations 20 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis (5 males and 15 females) and 3 of Other forms of Tuberculosis (1 male, 2 females) were notified during the year under review. Of these notified during the year nine pulmonary cases (4 males and 5 females) were admitted to Sanatorium, but none died. Among previously notified and inward transfer cases (and including re-admittances) 7 cases (4 males and 3 females, pulmonary) were admitted to Sanatorium and one non-pulmonary (spinal) to Orthopaedic Hospital.

A statement regarding the total deaths from Tuberculosis will be found on page 11.

The following table gives the number of new cases and Mortality (all cases) :—

1953 Age	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	1	6	—	—	—	2	—	—
35—45	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
45—55	2	2	—	—	2	1	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65—and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	5	15	1	2	3	3	0	0

The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1953 was as follows :—

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	41	71	112
Non-pulmonary	4	5	9
All Cases	45	76	121

Non Notifiable Acute Infectious Disease.—Influenza was not so very prevalent though three deaths were attributed to this disease—equivalent, therefore, to an influenza death rate of .15 per 1,000 of the population as compared with .05 (one death) in 1952. The rate for England and Wales (1953) was 0.16.

Re Measles and Whooping Cough (which both became notifiable as from 1st November, 1939)—see monthly incidence table page 29. According to Measles notifications received, fourteen parishes were affected—Crosby 10, Underskiddaw 4, Seaton 63, Dearham 33, Greysouthen 11, Gilerux 10, Above Derwent 5, Allerby and Oughterside 3, Brigham 1, Broughton Moor 59, Broughton 3, Bridekirk 1, Great Clifton 31, Little Clifton 40—Notifications totalling 274. Notified Whooping Cough cases occurred in seven parishes, there being 27 notifications—Dearham 7, Plumbland 1, Above Derwent 3, Bassenthwaite 2, Great Clifton 1, Dean 2, Underskiddaw 2, Seaton 10.

The case rates of Measles and Whooping Cough (as per notifications received) were respectively 14.1 and 1.39 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 12.36 and 3.58 for all England and Wales.

No death again occurred from either Measles or Whooping Cough, the death rate per 1,000 of the population for each disease, respectively, being therefore, nil, as compared with 0.01 and 0.01 in England and Wales.

Hospital accommodation as provided by the West Cumberland Joint Hospital Board for infectious diseases remains more or less unaltered.

During 1953 no public elementary school in the Cockermouth Rural District was closed on account of Infectious Disease.

The following table shows the incidence of Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, and Typhoid Fever in the various parishes:—

1953					
Parish	Diphtheria	Scarlet Fever	Typhoid and Para-typhoid Fever		
Above Derwent	— ..	7 ..	—		
Allerby and Oughterside	— ..	— ..	—		
Bassenthwaite	— ..	— ..	—		
Bewaldeth, &c.	— ..	— ..	—		
Blinderake, incl. Isel Old Park and Sunderland	— ...	— ...	—		
Bothel and Threapland	— ..	— ..	—		
Bridekirk, (incl. Dovenby Tallantire)	— ..	— ..	—		
Gt. and Lt. Broughton	— ...	— ...	—		
Broughton Moor	— ..	2 ..	—		
Blindbothel incl. Mosser & Whinfell	— ..	— ..	—		
Borrowdale	— ..	— ..	—		
Brigham	— ..	— ..	—		
Buttermere, incl. Brackenthwaite	— ..	— ..	—		
Camerton, incl. Ribton	— ..	— ..	—		
Great Clifton	— ..	— ..	—		
Little Clifton	— ..	— ..	—		
Crosscanonby	— ..	— ..	—		
Dearham	— ..	3 ..	—		
Dean, incl. Eaglesfield &c.	— ..	— ..	—		
Embleton	— ..	— ..	—		
Gilcrux	— ..	1 ..	—		
Greysouthen	— ...	— ...	—		
Lorton	— ..	— ..	—		
Loweswater and Mockerkin	— ..	— ..	—		
Papcastle	— ..	— ..	—		
Plumbland, &c.	— ..	1 ..	—		
Seaton	— ...	— ...	—		
St. John's-in-the-Vale	— ..	— ..	—		
Setmurthy	— ..	— ..	—		
Underskiddaw, incl. Skiddaw	— ..	— ..	—		
Winscales	— ...	— ...	—		
Wythop	— ..	— ..	—		
Totals	0 ..	14 ..	0		

Summary supplied by the Sanitary Inspector to the Medical Officer of Health in pursuance of Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

Sanitary Inspectors' Summary for the year ending December 31st, 1953.

NUISANCES :—

Complaints received	...	147
Nuisances observed	...	192
Nuisances abated	...	142
Nuisances unabated or work in hand	...	50
Sanitary conveniences repaired	...	35
Drains tested	...	38
New drains laid	...	42
New gully traps fixed	...	63
New chambers constructed	...	35
Septic tanks and filters constructed (private)	...	21
New water closets fixed	...	22

CONTROL OF CIVIL BUILDING :—

Licences issued respecting essential repairs to dwelling houses (where cost was over £500)	...	8
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INFECTIOUS DISEASES :—

Visits to infectious cases	...	25
Patients removed to isolation hospital	...	14
Houses disinfected	...	27

WATER SUPPLIES :—

Houses visited with special reference to water supplies	...	76
Houses provided with supplies from public mains (Including new houses)	...	102
Old connections and service pipes renewed	...	76
Samples of water taken for analysis (see page 13)	...	4

HOUSING :—

Houses inspected under the Housing Acts	...	158
Number of inspections made	...	231
Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	16
Representations made	...	16
Houses with structural or other defects (exclusive of item 3).	...	105
Houses, defects remedied	...	45
Demolition orders served	...	5
Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders.	...	8
Houses inspected under the Public Health Acts	...	118
Number of visits made under the Public Health Acts	...	205
Number of houses with defects (structural)	...	118
Number of houses with defects repaired	...	51

CAMPING :—

Licences issued under P.H.A. 1936 (Section 269)		
(Including renewals) Camping sites 11	...	17
Individual Movable dwellings 6	...	
Visits of inspection	...	72

SEWERING :—

Inspections (including interviews with owners of properties) regarding the provision of new sanitary arrangements and drainage connections	...	36
Private drains connected to public sewers (not including new houses)	...	14
Privies converted to water carriage system	...	6
New water closets built	...	6
New gully traps fixed	...	17
New chambers constructed	...	8

DAIRIES :—

On the register at the end of the year :		
Producers and retailers	...	98
Retail purveyors	...	12
Samples of milk taken (see page 27)	...	183

SLAUGHTER HOUSES and MEAT and FOOD INSPECTION :—

Number of slaughter houses on the register (now used as meat stores)	...	14
Number of licensed slaughtermen	...	66
Inspections made	...	96
Condemned in private traders' shops or stores :		
3lb. tin of Luncheon meat	1	
6lb. tin of stewed steak	1	
23lb. 5oz. of brawn		

FACTORIES :—

On the register at the end of the year	...	73
Visits of inspection	...	93

SHOPS ACT, 1934 :—

Registered premises	...	120
Visits of inspection	...	154

BAKEHOUSES :—

On the register	...	5
Visits of inspection	...	62

ICE CREAM :—

Registered premises for manufacture and sale	...	1
Registered premises for sale only	...	27
Inspections	...	57

REFUSE REMOVAL :—

Foul ashpits reported and cleansed	...	16
Number of houses from which refuse is removed by Council's contractors and direct service	...	5410

NOTICES :—

Under the Public Health Acts (Intimatory)	...	257
Under the Public Health Acts (Statutory)	...	10
Under the Housing Acts (Intimatory)	...	81
Under the Housing Acts (Statutory)	...	31

GEORGE NELSON, M.S.I.A.,
Senior Sanitary and Housing Inspector.

